

REMARKS

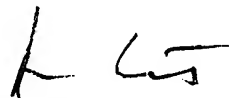
Claims 2, 4 to 10, 12, 15, 17, 18, 20 and 23 remain active in this application.

Claims 2, 5 to 10, 15, 17, 18 and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Inaba (JP 2001-217388). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

The invention was ready for patenting in accordance with the provisions of Pfaff v. Wells Electronics, 525 U.S. 55 (U.S. 1998) as stated in the attached Declaration Under 37 C.F.R. 1.132 on a date prior to the publication date of the cited and applied Japanese reference. Accordingly, the Japanese reference is not applicable in the subject application and the rejection is respectfully traversed for that reason.

In view of the above remarks, favorable reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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